

ABAWD Webinar Training Series: 15 Percent Exemption Policy



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How to Listen In

- This webinar will be held in “listen only” mode
- There are two ways to listen
 - Via Computer
 - Via Phone



How to Ask Questions

- Use the question box to ask your question any time during the presentation.
- At the end of the presentation, we will address as many questions as possible.
- We will follow-up on questions that we cannot get to during the allotted presentation time.

Note: This webinar will be recorded. A copy of the recording and all presentation materials will be provided after the presentation.

Upcoming Webinars

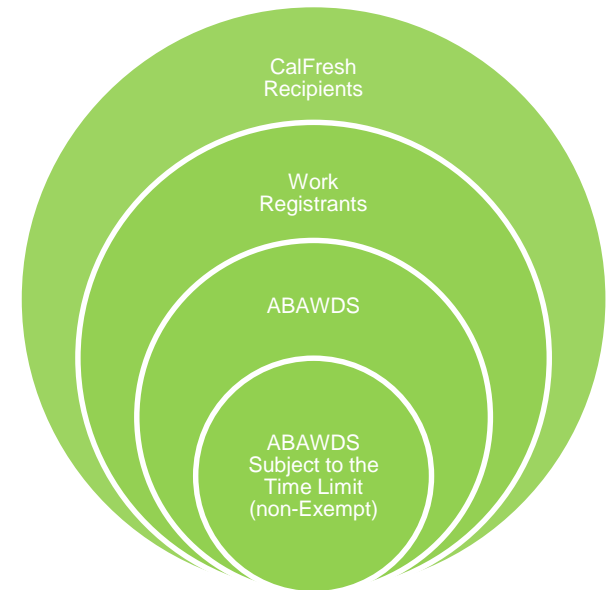
Date	Time	Topic
January 9 th	10-11am	ABAWD Clock, Reporting and MEDS

Agenda

- Review:
 - Webinar Training Series
 - ABAWD Time Limit Rule
- 15 Percent Exemption Policy
 - Background
 - State and County Allocation
 - Bank
 - Statewide Allocation Criteria
- Final Thoughts
- Q&A

Webinar Training Series Recap

- ABAWD 101
- ABAWD Exemptions
- Satisfying the ABAWD Work Requirement
- Counting Months
- Regaining Eligibility



Review: ABAWD Time Limit Rule

- ABAWD eligibility is limited to 3 full, countable months within a 36-month period
- Applies to individuals that:
 - Are 18-49,
 - Have no dependents, and
 - Do not qualify for an exemption
- Requires:
 - ABAWDs to work or participate in a qualifying work activity for 20 hours per week, averaged monthly; 20 hours a week averaged monthly means 80 hours a month



15 Percent Exemption Background

- Developed to assist ABAWDs who are unable to satisfy the work requirement for a variety of reasons outside of their control
- Recognition that the ABAWD work requirement is difficult to meet for some participants
- Allows selected ABAWDs to receive CalFresh benefits beyond their initial three month period.

15 Percent Exemption Background

- Individual exemptions equal to 15 percent of a State's caseload of ABAWDs subject to the time limit (not exempt)
- Allowable under the Food and Nutrition Act and federal regulations
- Allow State agencies to extend SNAP eligibility for ABAWDs
- One 15 percent exemption = One month of CalFresh benefits for one ABAWD individual

State Allocation

- Allocated based on 15 percent of the statewide “at risk” ABAWD caseload
- FNS considers a State’s ABAWD time limit waiver status as of approximately July 1 of each year
- Based on data from the STAT 47 and FNS 583 reports
- 15 percent exemptions cannot be earned in waiver areas

15 Percent Exemption Bank

- Cumulative
 - Unused 15 percent exemptions are carried forward
- California's current 15 percent exemption bank = 866,894
- Overuse – If too many exemptions are used they are deducted from the next year's allocation
- Strategic use is critical

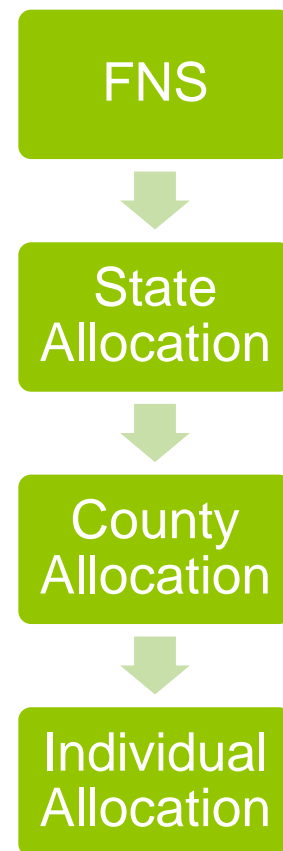


County Allocation

- CDSS distributes 15 percent exemptions to the CWD
- Available to all counties that do not qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver
- Allocation based on “at risk ABAWD” caseload

Individual Allocation

- Maximum discretion
- Statewide criteria has been established regarding the allocation of 15 percent exemptions
- Important note – CFAP individuals not eligible to receive 15 percent exemptions



Statewide 15 Percent Exemption Criteria

- These criteria will guide the use of the 15 percent exemptions at the local level
- Criteria includes but is not limited to:
 1. Overissuance/Error Protection
 2. Eligibility Extension
 3. Special Circumstances

Overissuance/Error Protection

- 15 percent exemptions should be granted to individuals who:
 - Were inadvertently issued CalFresh benefits after exhausting their three countable months,
 - Did not satisfy the work requirement, or
 - Did not qualify for an exemption
- The CWD may assign a 15 percent exemption, rather than establish an overissuance claim.

CalFresh Eligibility Extension

- Eligibility may be extended for ABAWDs who make an effort to satisfy the work requirement
 - For example, worked 10-19 hours a week versus 20



Special Circumstances

- The CWD may provide a 15 percent exemption to ABAWDs in the following special circumstances:
 - a) Re-entry/Probation/Criminal Record
 - b) Seasonally Employed
 - c) Dependent Child Ages Out
 - d) Former Foster Youth
 - e) Family Reunification
 - f) Close to qualifying for an exemption or no longer being considered an ABAWD

A large, three-dimensional blue graphic of the text "15%" is positioned on the right side of the slide. The numbers and the percentage symbol are rendered in a bold, sans-serif font with a slight shadow and a reflection on the surface below them.

Special Circumstances: Re-entry/Probation/Criminal Record

- These are clients who are:
 - Re-entering the community from prison or jail
 - Completing probation, or
 - Have a criminal record
- These clients may have challenges securing employment or satisfying the work requirement

Special Circumstances: Seasonally Employed

- Employed on a short-term basis
 - Retail workers for the holiday season
 - Employees hired during tax season
 - Seasonal agricultural workers



Special Circumstances: Dependent Child Ages Out

- Individuals who were previously exempt from the ABAWD time limit due to a child under 18 living in the CalFresh household
- Individuals who turned 18 and are now subject to the ABAWD time limit



Special Circumstances: Former Foster Youth

Individuals who have recently aged out of the foster care system

- They have turned age 18 (up to age 21)

Special Circumstances: Family Reunification

- Includes families that are engaging in a reunification program
- Children had to have been removed from the home for more than 30 days

Special Circumstances: Close to Meeting Exemption Criteria

- Individuals who are close to qualifying for an exemption or no longer being identified as an ABAWD may receive a 15 percent exemption



Tracking 15 Percent Exemption Usage

- CWDs are required to track the usage of the 15 percent exemption
 - Case documentation
 - MEDS – Code F
- Reported via the STAT 47

Applying 15 Percent Exemptions

- Order of operations
- First, does the ABAWD qualify for an exemption?
 - If yes, stop here. This client is exempt from the ABAWD time-limit
- Next, can good cause be determined?
 - If yes, stop here. This client would have satisfied the work requirement had it not been for their specific circumstance
- If neither of these apply, a 15 percent exemption may be applied

Example #1

- An ABAWD reports to the CWD that they will not satisfy the work requirement for the current month.
- They have already exhausted their three countable months and do not qualify for an exemption
- They explain how they would have satisfied the work requirement, but their car broke down half way through the month.
- Is a 15 percent exemption appropriate in this scenario?
 - No, good cause may be established.

Example #2

- An ABAWD reports to the CWD that they did not satisfy the work requirement last month because they were laid off from their job.
- They have already exhausted their three countable months and do not qualify for an exemption.
- They explain that their employment was seasonal
- Is a 15 percent exemption appropriate in this scenario?
 - Yes, this person has a special circumstance and a 15 percent exemption may be applied.

Final Thoughts

- No limit on the number of 15 percent exemptions an individual client may receive
 - CDSS suggests individuals receive no more than three exemptions per individual
- CWDs are encouraged to develop local policy guidance
- 15 percent exemptions are separate from general ABAWD exemptions
- ABAWDs granted a 15 percent exemption are still subject to the time limit and must satisfy the work requirement
 - They are only temporarily excused
- Bank strategy in progress

Questions



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Resources

- ABAWD Webinar Training Series
 - Part 1 – [ABAWD 101](#)
 - Part 2 – [ABAWD Exemptions](#)
 - Part 3 – [Satisfying the ABAWD Work Requirement](#)
 - Part 4 – [Counting Months](#)
 - Part 5 – [Regaining Eligibility](#)
- ABAWD Time Limit
 - [ACL 16-24](#) – CalFresh Summary of the ABAWD Time Limit
 - [USDA FNS ABAWD Page](#)
- 15 Percent Exemption Policy
 - [7 CFR 273.24\(g\)](#)

Thank You!



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